For Dr Anderson from the Author

A

# TESTIMONY OF VENERATION

FOR THE

# MEMORY

OF

# DR MATHEW BAILLIE,

OF LONDON.

READ AT THE FORTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL
OF THE HARVEIAN SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH,
ON THE 12TH OF APRIL 1825.

BY ANDREW DUNCAN *sen.* M. D. & P.
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PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF
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# HARVEIAN DISCOURSE,

## 1825.

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*A MEMOIR of the late Dr* MATHEW BAILLIE, *addressed to the Harveian Society of Edinburgh.*

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GENTLEMEN,

WE are now assembled, for the Forty-fourth Year, as the HARVEIAN SOCIETY of Edinburgh, to celebrate the important discovery of the Circulation of the Blood, by the Circulation of the social bottle on the birth-day of the discoverer of the real course of the Blood in the Human Body. In the words of an ingenious author, I may with truth say, *Nil me judice jucundius, immo utilius, quam studia graviora jocis interdum lenire, et horas paucas subsecivas genii ludicri modica indulgentia demulcere.* But this Annual Meeting, besides promoting social mirth, has two other interesting objects in view. These are to encourage experimental inquiry among the rising generation of medical students at Edinburgh; and

to commemorate the meritorious dead, who have exhibited to posterity examples worthy of imitation.

Your Annual Prize, given with the first of these intentions, has, for the year 1824, been adjudged to Mr Edward Lubbock, Student of Medicine, from Norwich. To him, therefore, I now deliver it; and I sincerely hope that the successful experiments which he has already made on the effects of different articles of diet, as increasing or diminishing the quantity of calcareous matter in the human urine, may lead him to future and still more interesting discoveries.

With a view to the commemoration of the dead, and as an example claiming, in a peculiar manner, the imitation of every medical practitioner, I now mean to present you with a short account of the life of my amiable and excellent deceased friend, the late Dr Mathew Baillie of London.

Dr Baillie was the son of the Reverend James Baillie, Doctor of Divinity, a highly respected clergyman of the Church of Scotland, who, at the time of his death, was Principal of the University of Glasgow. By his mother, Dr Baillie was no less connected with literary eminence. She was the daughter of John Hunter, Esq. of Kilbride in the county of Lanark, and the sister of two of the most eminent anatomists that Britain has ever produced, both justly celebrated medical practitioners in London, Dr William Hunter, Accoucheur to that most excellent Queen, Charlotte, the wife of George the Third; and Mr John Hunter, Surgeon to George the Third, one of the best men that ever lived, and one of the best kings that ever reigned.

These two HUNTERS were men whose characters are so well known to all who now hear me, that they can derive no additional celebrity from any eulogium that I can bestow.

Dr BAILLIE was born on the 27th of October 1761, at the Manse of the parish of Shotts in Lanarkshire, of which parish his father was at that time minister of the Gospel. He there received the first rudiments of knowledge, under the immediate tuition of an affectionate father. He made such progress in the acquisition of classical literature, that, when he had only reached the thirteenth year of his age, he was qualified to commence his academical studies at the University of Glasgow, of which his father was then the *Magister Principalis.*

At the University of Glasgow Dr BAILLIE's progress in his studies gave great satisfaction to all his teachers. As a decided proof of this, he was appointed by the Senatus Academicus of that College, to a fellowship in Baliol College of the University of Oxford, an appointment *meritis tantum concessus;* and which had before been bestowed on Dr ADAM SMITH, and some other men, afterwards distinguished by very high eminence in literature. After finishing a regular course of academical education at Oxford, with no less approbation than at Glasgow, he obtained the degree of *Magister Artium* from that University.

Thus instructed in preliminary knowledge, as it was his intention to follow the profession of medicine, a science which can hardly be said to be taught at Oxford, he removed to

London, to commence his medical education. At London Dr Baillie was placed in a situation more favourable for obtaining medical information, than has fallen to the lot of many. His two maternal uncles, Dr William Hunter, and Mr John Hunter, were at that time two of the most eminent medical practitioners in Britain, and decidedly two of the most instructive teachers of medicine. Dr William Hunter was at that time one of the most distinguished teachers of Anatomy in Europe. Nor was the reputation of John Hunter in any degree inferior to that of his brother William. Besides extensive employment as a celebrated Surgeon in London, he had the principal charge of a large and well regulated hospital, St George's in Westminster. Both these uncles were peculiarly attached to young Baillie. Both were equally anxious to promote his acquisition of medical knowledge; and they vied with each other who should communicate to him the most important instruction.

He was, however, more particularly under the eye of his eldest uncle, Dr William Hunter, having received and accepted of an invitation to lodge under his roof; and, in the house of an eminent teacher of anatomy, who lived a bachelor, he unavoidably received instruction at almost every meal as well as at every lecture. He was soon employed as his uncle's assistant in the dissecting room; and even to a very early period of life, was, to a certain degree, conjoined with him as a teacher of anatomy.

After what has been said, it is unnecessary to add, that few young men have had an opportunity of conducting their me-

dical studies with such peculiar advantages, and very few, indeed, have availed themselves with more assiduity of such singular opportunities for information. It is not, therefore, surprising that Dr Baillie soon became one of the most eminent teachers of anatomy in London. Even prior to his uncle's death in 1783, he might be considered as the chief anatomical teacher in Windmill Street; and when that event took place, he not only became his uncle's successor in the anatomical theatre, and in the highly valuable museum, but in reputation, as one of the first teachers of anatomy in Europe.

That rich museum, indeed, on which Dr Hunter is computed to have expended, in anatomical preparations, books, pictures, and medals, upwards of a Hundred Thousand pounds, he had bequeathed to the University of Glasgow, but with the express condition, that his nephew Baillie should, if he chose, have the full use of it for twenty years. With such an anatomical museum, and such abilities, Dr Baillie's remarkable success as a teacher was no more than might reasonably have been expected. With the most strict adherence to truth, it may with confidence be asserted, that very few teachers have held so high a rank both in the esteem and affection of their hearers.

But, if Dr Baillie's reputation at home was high as a Teacher of Medicine, it was no less extended abroad, as an author to whom the healing art was indebted for material improvements. By different valuable publications he afforded instruction to every medical practitioner who could lay claim to the character of being a studious man. His writings,

which are well known to all who now hear me, I need not mention in detail. It is sufficient to say, that they were numerous and valuable. There are two of them, however, which I cannot pass over in total silence. His work, entitled "*Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important parts of the Human Body,*" which was first published at London in 1793, and his subsequent publication, entitled "*A Series of Engravings, accompanied with Explanations, which are intended to illustrate the Morbid Anatomy of some of the most important parts of the Human Body,*" which was first committed to the press in 1819, afford ample demonstration to every intelligent medical practitioner of the present age, that Dr BAILLIE has a just claim to be ranked among the real improvers of the healing art. And as long as medicine shall continue to be cultivated as a science, these works will extend his fame to the latest ages, and the most distant nations of the terrestrial globe.

But high as the reputation, and considerable as the emolument, of an eminent teacher of anatomy in London may be, they are still much inferior to that of a physician at the head of London practice. This seems to have been the principal object which Dr BAILLIE had in view from the commencement of his medical career in London. In the year 1779, his studies at Oxford were begun, and after having completed the period fixed by the laws of that University, he obtained the degrees of Master of Arts, and Bachelor of Medicine. This last degree entitled him to enter upon practice in London, in connection with the Royal College of Physicians; and notwithstanding the most strict attention to his duties as a teacher of anatomy, first as the coadjutor, and afterwards as

successor to his uncle, he was able to conjoin with the profession of a Lecturer, considerable practice as a Physician.

His celebrity as a Medical Practitioner was not a little increased by his appointment to be *Physician to St George's Hospital in* 1787. In that Hospital, where he had formerly been a pupil under his uncle Mr JOHN HUNTER, he afforded to those who were now his pupils, demonstrative evidence of the happy talents of the attentive, the humane, and the skilful practitioner, in strict combination.

It is almost unnecessary to add, that, with such qualifications, his private practice was rapidly augmented; and to this both the University of Oxford, and the Royal College of Physicians of London, lent their aid. For, in the year 1789, the former conferred upon him *Summos in Medicina Honores*, the degree of Doctor of Medicine; and the latter, with open arms, received him into their Fraternity as a Fellow of the College.

With practice now very extensive as a Physician, it is not wonderful that he should have thought of relinquishing both the honour and profit of an eminent Anatomical Teacher, and of confining his future exertions to the practice of medicine alone. Accordingly, in the year 1799, he took a final leave of his occupation as a Lecturer; and, on that occasion, his students in Windmill Street, as a testimony of regard for him as a man, and esteem for him as a teacher, presented him with an elegant piece of silver-plate, containing an appropriate Latin inscription, demonstrative of their gratitude for the knowledge they had derived from his prelections.

From the commencement of the year 1800, Dr Baillie's whole employment was that of a physician in London; and the extent and success of his practice in this line, has seldom been equalled at any former period. Of this it may be considered as incontrovertible evidence, that, when it was the will of Heaven to subject our beloved Monarch, George the Third, to a deplorable disease, Dr Baillie was one of those appointed to attend him, and received the distinguished honor of being nominated one of the Physicians' Extraordinary to the King. And I have been well assured by those who had the best opportunities for information, that, among all the King's medical attendants, there was no physician in whom his most excellent and amiable consort, Queen Charlotte, placed greater confidence, than in Dr Baillie.

At the head of the medical profession in London, it is not wonderful, that, in a few years, he should have realized a very handsome fortune. This, however, was not the consequence of penurious living, or even of strict domestic economy. For soon after he dedicated his time solely to the practice of physic, he married the daughter of Dr Denman, an Accoucheur of the first eminence in London, and his family establishment was in every respect suited to his station. By his wife, he had two children, a son and a daughter, who received as liberal an education as the present age can afford: And although his table was never noted for splendid extravagance, yet it could hardly be exceeded for cordial hospitality.

That Dr Baillie had no anxious desire to accumulate wealth, but was a man of a truly generous disposition, was

abundantly demonstrated by another very remarkable transaction. Dr William Hunter, his maternal uncle, by whom he was regarded as a son, bequeathed to him, by a special deed, the estate of Kilbride, which had been long the property of his Hunter Ancestors. The lineal heir to that property was, however, Dr Hunter's own brother, not his nephew, and it was much contrary to the inclination of Dr Baillie, that the lineal succession should be interrupted. He could not, however, oppose his uncle's partiality to him. But he no sooner came into possession of this property by the death of Dr Hunter, than he adopted the most prudent measures to transfer it to the legal heir: And, although not without much difficulty, he prevailed upon his uncle Mr John Hunter to accept of the estate of Kilbride.

To that property Mr Hunter was the heir-of-line by the law of Scotland; and it would have devolved upon him, if Dr William Hunter had died intestate. Although this mark of a generous disposition was no more than was drawn from him by compliance with the dictates of Justice, the first of the cardinal virtues, yet it proved beyond contradiction, that, in his mind, the *auri sacra fames*, even when backed by the strict letter of the law, could not impose the slightest restraint on his benevolent heart.

With such eminence in his profession, it cannot seem strange, that the most distinguished literary establishments both at home and abroad should have been anxious to add his name to their number. He was, accordingly, soon decorated with many titles, by learned Societies from almost

every country in Europe. But those upon which he put the highest value, were medical honours. Thus, although it is well known, that he declined the dignity of being created a Baronet, he accepted, with cheerfulness, the rank of being an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

It has been the practice of the College of Physicians of Edinburgh from its commencement, to increase the dignity of our fraternity, by adopting, as Socii Honorarii, a very few of the most eminent Physicians in other countries. Accordingly, Linnæus in Sweden, Van Swieten in Vienna, Zimmerman in Hanover, and Vic d'Azyr in Paris, have added respectability to our Honorary List. Into our list of Socii Honorarii, one has in general been elected from London, and the names of the celebrated Dr Arbuthnot, of Sir Hans Sloane, and of Sir George Baker, have, in succession, given dignity to our College.

Upon the death of Sir George Baker, there was no Physician in London, whose name could do greater honour to us than that of Dr Baillie, and, in his election as one of our Honorary Fellows, I am proud to say that I took an active part. With this distinction he was highly gratified, and, in return, he was the means of conferring upon me an honorary title which I had little reason to expect. When I happened to be accidentally in London in 1815, and when I was a welcome guest at his hospitable table, he voluntarily offered to procure for me, by his interest at Court, the title of Physician Extraordinary to the King. Without pretending to conceal

the folly of old age, I must candidly acknowledge, nay, I am proud to say, that my vanity was not a little flattered by this kind proposal. In a few days after this offer, my appointment was announced in the London Gazette; and it was to me no slight source of happiness, that, in the Court Calendar, during the remainder of the life of GEORGE THE THIRD, I saw my name in the list of his Majesty's Household, immediately subjoined to that of Dr BAILLIE, and in conjunction with those of Dr CARMICHAEL SMYTH, my quondam Fellow Student, and Dr EDWARD ASH, my quondam pupil at Edinburgh, who were at that time Physicians of the first eminence in the capital of the British Empire.

Though Dr BAILLIE, now one of the most distinguished Physicians in Europe, and possessed of an ample fortune, from the fair emoluments of his profession, ceased to be a teacher of youth; yet, an ardent zeal for the improvement of the healing art was demonstrated in his conduct till the latest period of his life: For, even during his lifetime, he presented to the College of Physicians in London, his highly valuable Museum of Morbid Anatomy, and he bequeathed to the College at his death a fund for the support of it.

The sense which that learned body entertained of this highly meritorious conduct, and of the value which they put upon his donation, was expressed in a resolution of the College, delivered to him by their President, in the following words.—"*Resolved, that the Thanks of the Royal College of Physicians be conveyed to Dr* BAILLIE, *for the very extensive and valuable collection of anatomical preparations which he has*

*presented to the College, and for his liberal donation to defray the expence of the same, for which most useful and munificent present, the College will ever hold Dr* BAILLIE *in grateful and honourable remembrance.*

To this eulogium, it is impossible that any panegyric from me, can make even the most inconsiderable addition. Having thus, therefore, recommended the character of Dr BAILLIE, as an example worthy of imitation, I shall conclude this testimony of esteem and affection for the memory of a deceased friend, with the words of a celebrated Roman Poet:

*Multis ille bonis flebilis occidit,*
*Nulli flebilior quam tibi II.....do.*
*.....Cui, Pudor, et Justitiæ soror*
*Incorrupta Fides, nudaque Veritas*
*Quando ullum invenient parem?*

For Modesty, for Justice, for Fidelity, for a sacred regard to Truth, where shall we find Dr BAILLIE's equal? As a Teacher, as an Author, as a Physician, and as a Man, when shall we see his like again?

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*At the* EDINBURGH HARVEIAN FESTIVAL, *of the Social Sons of Apollo, for the year* 1825, ROBERT K. GREVILLE, *Esq. LL.D. well known as a distinguished Botanist, who had been appointed Poet-Laureate to the Society, as successor to the ever-to-be-lamented Sir Alexander Boswell, Bart. added to the hilarity of that meeting, by singing the following verses, composed by himself.*

1

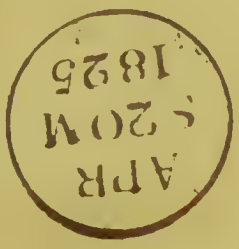
Merrily pass we the rosy wine,
Fill to our patron of nectar and song.
HERVEY ! to please thee, we drink and dine,
To urge thy favourite stream along.
And who would not bow to the lord of the blood ;
The friend of good humour and innocent glee ?
All find that good living does wonderful good,
In making the current of life circle free.

2

GRÆM, our Preses, would look rather sober and blue,
Could he find e'en a Cabbage in this point to fail.
A Cabbage has life, give the Cabbage his due,
He circulates blood from the head to the tail.
Oh ! give him some drink, in his own private way,
Never mind though he drink by the tail, or the head ;
A Cabbage confesses our great HERVEY's sway,
And drinks what he can till he's dying, or dead.

3

BARCLAY, our friend, not of song, but of jest,
Vitality holds in the blood to reside ;
Well does he know that there's nought like a feast,
With a tale of his own, to hasten its tide.
Old DUNCAN still thrives on a similar plan,
He has age on his side, so believe him we must ;
Laugh away, says our DUNCAN, replenish your Can,
Keep the polish of Life, from the dulness of Rust.

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